



# The 2004 Governor's Election:

## A TIMELINE OF ERRORS: A CASE FOR REFORM

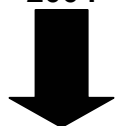
**May 2004**



**November 2004**



**December 2004**



**January 2005**



**February 2005**

**March 2005**



**April 2005**



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|---------|---|
| May 2   | The Seattle Times reports the King County Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee is calling for tighter election security, citing significant shortcomings with basic elections security.  |
| Nov. 12 | King County Superior Court Judge Dean Lum releases the names of 929 provisional-ballot voters whose ballots were rejected because of missing or mismatched signatures. Democratic party activists go door-to-door collecting affidavits for Gregoire voters.  |
| Nov. 15 | King County Elections officials announce they are counting nearly 10,000 more ballots than expected, claiming the number of votes left in the county turned out to be higher than estimated because more absentee voters than expected returned their ballots and a larger-than-expected number of provisional ballots were found valid.  |
| Dec. 20 | The Seattle Times reports that King County election workers were told as early as May that if an absentee ballot came in without a matching signature on file they were required to make a concerted effort to verify that the vote was valid...In this November's general election, the county's absentee- ballot staff still didn't make the effort to find matching signatures—they rejected them. |
| Jan. 4  | The Seattle P-I reports nearly 8,500 mystery votes— or votes without voters.  |
| Jan. 5  | The Seattle Times reports an unknown number of provisional ballots were fed directly into voting machines with no verification—that number was later revised to roughly 350.  |
| Jan. 7  | The Seattle P-I reports votes were cast for at least eight dead people in King County.  |
| Jan. 8  | The Tacoma News Tribune reports that at least eight convicted felons voted illegally in Pierce County.  |
| Jan. 10 | The Seattle Times reveals the U.S. Department of Justice had threatened to sue Washington for moving too slowly in mailing military ballots.  |
| Jan. 11 | The Seattle Times reports the King County elections superintendent admitted the number of votes unaccounted for was roughly 1,800 in King County but it was impossible to come up with a precise number.  |
| Jan. 23 | The Seattle Times revealed detailed flaws in the election system that allowed at least 129 felons to cast illegal ballots in King and Pierce counties.  |
| Feb. 25 | The Seattle Times reports that election officials in Pierce County found 73 felons had cast illegal ballots.  |
| Mar. 9  | The Seattle P-I reports that King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng identified 99 convicted felons who cast illegal ballots.  |
| Mar. 12 | The Seattle Times reports that 40 voters who improperly put their provisional ballots through polling-site counting machines in King County during the Nov. election were credited with casting additional votes.   |
| Mar. 15 | King County Elections Director Dean Logan announced as many as 660 provisional ballots were counted before the eligibility of those voters was checked.   |
| Mar. 16 | The Longview Daily news reports that two dead voters and two convicted felons cast ballots in Cowlitz County.   |
| Mar. 25 | The Seattle P-I reported that King County prosecutors identified 93 more felons who cast illegal votes.   |
| Apr. 1  | The Seattle P-I reports that hundreds of votes were improperly counted in the November election when poll workers in four Eastern Washington counties tallied provisional ballots without first matching signatures on the ballot envelopes with those on file.   |
| Apr. 2  | The Seattle P-I reports that King County elections workers discovered 87 unopened absentee ballots that were not counted in the November election.  |
| April 8 | The Seattle Times reports King County election officials admitted 93 absentee ballots weren't counted in the tight governor's race and acknowledged a report accounting for absentee ballots was fundamentally flawed, and ballots weren't included in mailings to some voters for an April 26 vote-by-mail hospital levy election.   |
| April 9 | The Seattle Times reports King County election workers have found another absentee ballot that wasn't counted in the November election, bringing the total to 94. Snohomish County Auditor...also admits his office has found three uncounted ballots.  |